Health Services. A total of 18 full-time-equivalent positions are allocated to the permitting, testing, design approval, and enforcement activities.

The Connecticut DEP has the legal authority to regulate underground fuel tanks, and these regulations are currently under review. The law authorizes DEP to delegate these powers to local units of government, thus DEP is delegating these programs to fire marshalls. It must now approve these underground fuel tanks for safety. Further, the state does not generally regulate chemical storage tanks.

California's law has similar provisions for new construction, which apply statewide. Implementation has been slowed by difficulty in promulgating specific guidelines, and deadlines have been reset a number of times. Annual pressure testing or installation of a continuous leak-monitoring system will be required. Companies may be required to pull up existing chemical tanks and double-line them. Because gasoline tanks are so numerous, only new ones must be double-lined. The average gas station will pay about $3000 to 4000 to meet state rules, and then pay an annual cost of about $1500 for monitoring or testing. In addition to the monitoring requirements, spill reporting, closure requirements, and variance procedures are included. Counties must regulate under the law, issue permits to implement the state regulations by stated dates (which have been changing), inspect tanks every three years, and handle small spills. The initial costs of compliance have been estimated at $1,146 million.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Many states and localities, such as Long Island, New York, and Dade County, Florida, have effective underground storage tank control programs that will reduce ground water contamination from this source.

Therefore, all states should consider developing a comprehensive program for monitoring and inspecting chemical and petroleum product storage tanks with stringent design standards for all new tanks and a requirement for monitoring, testing, and upgrading existing tanks in important recharge areas.

Nonpoint Source Contaminants

There are several groups of nonpoint sources of ground water degradation, including chemicals used in the production of plants and animals, the improper use of solvents or other synthetic organic compounds, on-site domestic waste disposal, e.g., septic tanks, mining, and highway maintenance. Chemicals are used by agriculture to control pests (above and below ground), promote growth, and control weeds. They are also used in large